

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CPR-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 L-03 H-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 PA-01 SCA-01 /053 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3491

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SCIL, CSCE, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET TREATMENT OF U.S. CORRESPONDENTS

REF: (A) MOSCOW 1083, (B) STATE 107060

1. LATE AFTERNOON JANUARY 26 AP BUREAU CHIEF MASON WAS CALLED BY ALEKSANDR VOZNIKOV, MFA PRESS DIVISION STAFFER RESPONSIBLE FOR US PRESS. MVD HAD ASKED HIM, VOSNIKOV SAID, TO INQUIRE OF MASON WHETHER HE HAD GIVEN TO A MAN NAMED GAMER ANY OF THE SERIES D COUPONS CHARGED TO MASON'S ACCOUNT AT THE FOREIGN TRADE BANK. MASON SAID HE HAD NOT AND THE CONVERSATION WAS OVER. VOZNIKOV DID NOT MENTION THE JANUARY 25 MEETING AT MFA PRESS DIVISION DURING WHICH AP STAFFER GEORGE KRIMSKY WAS CHARGED WITH HAVING GIVEN SERIES D COUPONS TO SOVIET CITIZENS (REF A).

2. JANUARY 27 P&C COUNSELOR INFORMED MASON SUBSTANCE OF GARRISON-KAMENEV CONVERSATION (REF B). MASON INFORMS THAT KRIMSKY HAS NOT OBSERVED EFFECT ON HIS WORK. PEOPLE HE HAS SOUGHT TO MEET (UNIDENTIFIED) SEE HIM. THERE HAS BEEN NO HARRASSMENT OF SELF OR FAMILY. HOWEVER, WITH LARGE
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APARTMENT AND YOUNG CHILD, KRIMSKYS FINDING LIFE WITHOUT A MAID DIFFICULT. REQUEST AT UPDK FOR REPLACEMENT MAID NOT YET ACTED ON. KRIMSKY FAMILY DISCUSSING POSSIBILITY WIFE AND CHILD WILL DEPART. ONLY SLIGHTEST PERSONAL HARRASSMENT, MASON REPORTS, WOULD BE NECESSARY CAUSE THIS DECISION. AS FOR KRIMSKY HIMSELF, HE SUPPORTED BY AP OFFICE, REMAINS FIRM IN DECISION NOT TO DEPART VOLUNTARILY.

3. AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 27 MASON WILL SEEK INTERVIEW WITH
MFA PRESS DIVISION CHIEF SOFINSKIY FOR FULL DISCUSSION
CHARGES LEVELLED. HE WILL NOTE IMPOSSIBILITY UNDER LOCAL
CONDITIONS BEING CERTAIN EACH AND EVERY SERIES D COUPON
WHICH HE, MASON, ACQUIRES FROM FOREIGN TRADE BANK, IS IN
FACT SPENT ONLY BY THE FEW SOVIETS WHO RECEIVE THEM. MASON
NOTES THAT THE 5 SOVIET EMPLOYED BY AP RECEIVE A
PROPORTION OF THEIR SALARIES IN COUPONS, AS DO THE MAIDS OF
EACH OF THE 4 US AP STAFFERS. ALL, RPT, ALL COUPONS ARE
ACQUIRED BY MASON AGAINST HIS ACCOUNT AND HE DISTRIBUTES
THEM TO HIS SOVIET AND TO HIS AMERICAN STAFFS. HE WILL
NOTE THAT ALL CORRESPONDENTS NOW IN MOSCOW HANDLE COUPONS
IN PRECISELY SAME WAY. AS ALL NOW AWARE OF CHARGES
AGAINST KRIMSKY, ALL FEEL THEMSELVES TO BE THREATENED.
TOON

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